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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Friday - 27 February 1970

25X1 5. [] Jim Lowenstein, on the staff of the Senate Foreigns Relations Committee, called to advise that Richard Moose who has been working on the ABM subject will be attending the Director's briefing of Senator Gore's Subcommittee on Monday.

25X1 6. [] In response to his earlier request I briefed Bill Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on the numbers of Agency personnel in Laos and also provided him with a breakdown of the cost of the paramilitary program there for FY 1970. (See Memo for the Record for details.)

25X1 7. [] Met with Ed Braswell, on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and briefed him on the situation in Laos using the briefing material used by Mr. Maury in the briefing of Senator Stephen Young. Braswell was most interested in this. He commented that Senator Stennis had indicated to him this morning that he wanted to receive a briefing from the Pentagon on what was going on in Laos. At that time Braswell suggested that the Chairman also receive a briefing from the Agency and the Senator said he wanted to do this. I told Braswell we were available to do this at Senator Stennis' convenience. Braswell mentioned in passing that the Pentagon has refused to provide Senator Symington with a briefing on B-52 raids in Laos. He said General Ryan has declined to even see Symington on this.



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Soviet Says Its ABM Can 'Reliably Hit' Attacking Missiles

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 23—The Soviet Union today ended a prolonged silence on the capability of its antimissile defenses by asserting that they could "reliably hit" attacking missiles at any height or speed and at great distances from defended targets.

The statement was included in an article by Defense Minister Andrei A. Grechko commemorating Armed Forces Day. The article in Pravda, the Communist Party paper, contained the most authoritative discussion of the Soviet antimissile defenses in the press since 1967.

Despite the debate in the United States on the merits of such defenses systems and the detailed disclosures of American estimates of Soviet capabilities, Moscow has remained virtually silent about

its program for the last three years.

Marshal Grechko's comments seemed to indicate continued Soviet interest in developing the weapons system, and his words, compared with what he said in 1967, appeared to represent a more positive evaluation of the effectiveness of these weapons.

Western diplomats have suspected that the blackout on discussion on the subject reflected Soviet hopes that the United States would not follow the Soviet lead and deploy its own antimissile defenses. But the statement by Marshal Grechko does undercut the argument used by Soviet commentators who have charged that Safeguard was a waste of money.

In marking Armed Forces Day in 1967, Marshal Grechko said "modern means of air defense assure the destruction of any aircraft and many kinds of missiles."

Today he said:

"Great changes have taken place also in the country's air defense forces. We possess weapons capable of reliably hitting enemy aircraft and missiles irrespective of height or speed of their flight, at great distances from the defended targets."

He seemed to be saying that where the Soviet Union was able to deploy antimissile systems, they were effective.

United States officials have asserted that the Soviet Union has deployed about 70 antimissile launchers around Moscow. President Nixon, in his foreign policy message to Congress last week, said the Russians were continuing research into antimissile components and radar.

There was speculation on the timing and significance of Marshal Grechko's statement.

Some Western diplomats said it could be explained as part of the usual Armed Forces Day exercise of rhetorical praise for the military. But it was noted that nothing was said about

antimissile defenses in either 1968 or 1969.

Other diplomats said the statement indicated the Soviet military establishment's continuing positive evaluation of the system. These diplomats thought that with a new five-year plan to be announced later this year, the Soviet military—or at least parts of it—might be arguing for permission and resources to expand antimissile defenses.

There seemed to be agreement that Marshal Grechko's statement was also directed at the United States, perhaps as a bargaining more when the talks on limitations of strategic arms resume in Vienna on April 16. A successful antimissile system would be more valuable to trade off in Vienna than one that was inefficient, diplomats said.

The Soviet Union has apparently been working on development of an antimissile system for more than 10 years. In 1961, the then Defense Minister, Marshal Rodin Y. Malinovsky, said at the 22d party congress that "the problem of

destroying missiles in flight... has been successfully solved."

The first rocket capable of acting as an antimissile missile was the so-called Galosh, which was first demonstrated publicly in November, 1964.

In 1966, at the 23d party congress, Marshal Malinovsky said air defenses could hit "any planes and many kinds of missiles," the same formulation used by Marshal Grechko in 1967 and by Marshal Matvei v. Zakharov, the Chief of General Staff, in an article in Izvestia on Saturday.

Marshal Grechko said that because the "world is in turmoil" at the present time, the Soviet leaders "are showing daily concern for strengthening the defenses of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp as a whole."

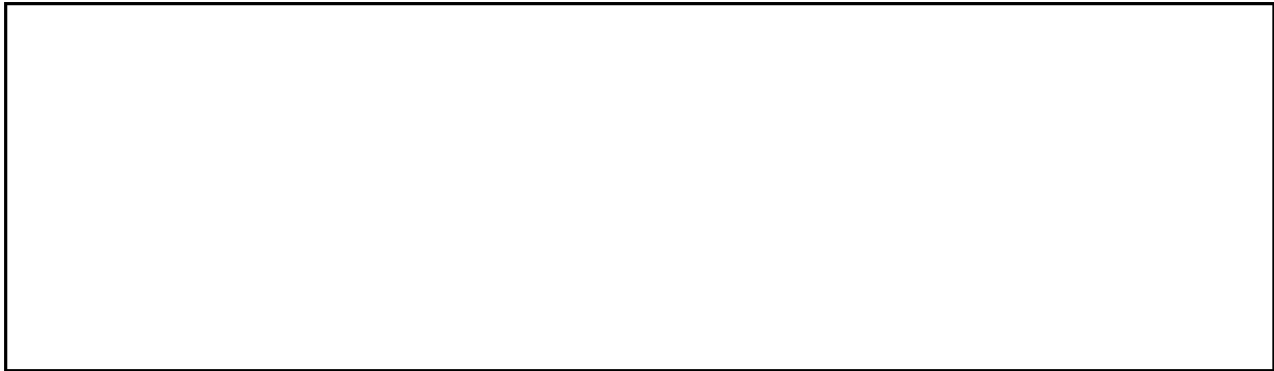
He listed the United States, Israel and West Germany as problem countries but omitted Communist China. However, China was singled out for criticism in another article by Marshal Ivan I. Yakubovskiy, head of the Warsaw Pact forces.

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 24 February 1970



25X1

25X1 2. [] Met with Mrs. Oneta Stockstill, Executive Secretary, House Armed Services Committee, who requested verification of the transcript pagination of the Director's briefing of Tuesday, 18 March 1969, which is held by the Agency for safekeeping. Verification is required for audit of billings by Capitol Reporting Service, official reporters to the Committee.

25X1 3. [] Met briefly with John Reddan, Counsel, Special Investigating Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee, who advised that testimony of witnesses before the Committee on the My Lai matter has identified two or three Agency persons by name who are reported to have been "in the area" at the time of the My Lai incident. Mr. Reddan was on his way to a meeting with the Chairman and said that he would call me and set a time to talk about this matter.

25X1 4. [] Received a call from Miss Judy Spahr, National Security and International Operations Subcommittee staff, Senate Government Operations Committee, who requested a copy of the Andre Grechko address relating to the ABM which was reported in Pravda over the weekend.

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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 20 February 1970

25X1

1. [] Messrs. Walter Pincus and Roland Paul, Special Investigators for the Symington Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations, which is looking into U.S. commitments abroad, visited Headquarters in preparation for their upcoming trip to the Middle East and Europe and were briefed by DDI and DDP officers on conditions in Morocco, Libya, Ethiopia, and Iran. Agency operational matters were not discussed.

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Prior to the briefing the Director met with Messrs. Pincus and Paul and emphasized to them the importance of carefully observing the sensitivity of an important technical collection installation []

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25X1A

2. [] Accompanied Mr. Bruce Clarke, D/OSR, and [] FMSAC, who briefed Senators Charles Percy and John Sherman Cooper on a "secret/sensitive" level regarding Soviet and ChiCom strategic offensive and defensive weapons systems. The interest of the Senators centered on the Soviet SS-9 and Moscow ABM system and their admitted purpose was to inform themselves of certain facts relevant to the upcoming Senate debate regarding the ABM issue.

25X1

3. [] James Gehrig, Senate Space Committee staff, called and suggested that they come to the Agency for the briefing on the Soviet space programs on Tuesday afternoon, 24 February, at 2 p.m. Mr. Brandwein has been advised.

25X1

25X1A

4. [] Dorothy Fosdick, Staff Director of the Senate Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations, called concerning the AP ticker item indicating that an explosion had occurred at the Soviet submarine yards at Gorky. Miss Fosdick was interested in knowing whether we could confirm or deny this report. After checking with [] I advised Miss Fosdick that we were looking into this report but could neither confirm nor deny it at this time. She asked if we would let her know whether we had any information on this over the weekend.

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